



## **Analysis of Illegal Leisure Effects on the Social Conditions of Rural Households (Case Study: Varza Jang Betting and Gambling in Guilan Province-Belesbeneh Rural District)**

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### **Abstract**

**Purpose-** Leisure is influential in shaping social identity and helpful for social growth, which occurs in legal and illegal ways. The illegal form is a behavior that is out of control and causes irreversible damage to individuals and their families. Therefore, investigating the role of illegal leisure time (gambling and betting games) is necessary to improve the quality of social life, especially for rural households. To this end, this study aims to investigate the role of illegal leisure time, particularly gambling, on the social conditions of rural households.

**Design/methodology/approach** - This research is descriptive-analytical in terms of its aim and method. The data collection tools are questionnaires and interviews from a sample of 362 households. The statistical population is rural households, both involved and uninvolved, in Varza Jang (an animal fight tournament) located in Kuchesfahan District, Belesbeneh Rural District (N = 5819). A sample group was selected using Cochran's Formula and Quota sampling. In addition, a one-sample t-test, Friedman rank test and path analysis were used to analyze the data.

**Findings-** The results of the t-test showed that in the component of social anomalies, the indicator of violence and tension in the family with an average of 3.86 had the highest, and the indicator of suicide with an average of 1.39 had the lowest social effects on the studied rural households. Also, in the component of family and individual abnormalities and problems, the stress indicator in children with an average of 3.91 had the highest, and the indicator of family separation and divorce with an average of 2.89 had the lowest average affecting the social effects of the respondents. Also, the results of the path analysis showed that betting and gambling were effective on all indicators of the two components of social anomalies and individual anomalies.

**Originality/value-** For this reason, gambling significantly impacts children's stress, violence, tension and divorce in families.

**Keywords-** Leisure time, gambling, betting game, Varza Jang, Guilan province, Belesbeneh Rural District.

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## 1. Introduction

Leisure is influential in shaping social identity and helpful for individual growth and influencing the creation of a social environment, and to a large extent, the driver of social growth (Ospisil et al., 2022). Today, leisure is known as a new indicator of social well-being. Its existence and importance may be the result of the growth of the industry and consumerism. The purpose of these activities is to feel refreshed and satisfied, to gain peace and pleasure. In addition, leisure is a source for improving the quality of life of people who do not do anything compulsorily, but their time is spent for themselves and their desires. Spending leisure time usually occurs in two forms, legal and illegal, which take place in different forms and can, directly and indirectly, affect the economy, income, well-being, and other social and economic components pertaining to households, especially rural families. This study focuses on spending illegal leisure time, namely, betting games and gambling.

Currently, betting and gambling are widely accepted and regulated in different countries (Njonge & Ronoh, 2022). Bets have different types, such as poker, dice, cards, animals, and football betting games, which are legalized and available in many countries, including Australia, America, New Zealand, and Colombia; nevertheless. In Islamic countries such as Iran, Afghanistan, and Iraq, these activities are forbidden and penalized according to the laws. Betting when it goes out of control is a behavior that causes irreversible damage to individuals and their families in some countries. In fact, harmful entertainments, associated with economic and social damages, have permanent effects such as depression, family problems, addiction, unemployment, poverty, divorce, bankruptcy, crime, and suicide, as well as increasing tension between the gambler and the family members (Williams, 2011).

Other ensuing predicaments of gambling can be financial problems, legal issues, personal problems, violence, mental health, creating stress in children, psychological problems, and physical problems. Nonetheless, some effects can be individual refreshments and helping improve the quality of life and household income (Salonen, 2016).

Today, refreshment is eventually a development goal, and the society which is trying to get it will achieve future social stability (Sadeghi et al., 2022); However, the damages caused by gambling take away the quality of life and the level of satisfaction. The quality of life and the level of satisfaction are also related to other factors such as income, the level of poverty, the quality of leisure time, the level of social rights, the level of mental health of people, the level of security, cultural and recreational facilities.

In rural societies such as villagers in Guilan Province of Iran, there are both legal and illegal leisure activities. In some periods, one type exceeds the other. Social, economic, geographical and environmental conditions are influential factors as well.

The active legal forms of leisure activities are festivals and local ceremonies in Guilan. Illegal activities, on the other hand, are associated with betting on animals such as cows, pigeons, dogs, and roosters, in addition to sports betting games like tutu (betting on football). One of the most famous types of leisure time in the villages of Guilan, particularly Kuchesfahan District, is Varza Jang (fighting between indigenous-breed bulls). Although these animal fight competitions are illegal, fans secretly participate in betting out of the sight of the police. Each year, more than a dozen fights are held in the region. While this is a recreational activity and a part of the everyday life of the villagers, it can be detrimental to households. These people continuously participate in betting and ignore the fact that this activity will jeopardize their family, career, financial and psychological life. Financial resources especially are mainly engaged. Since these resources are not usually stable, losing them is expected, which has many consequences for insecure rural households, like financial obligations and property auctions. Eventually, it will result in household members' dissatisfaction due to income instability.

These types of activities, whether occasionally positive (due to the temporary refreshment) or negative (due to the loss of financial resources of rural households), are the cause of severe tensions and the instability of the quality of life, as well as the economic predicaments of the rural households involved in Varza Jang competitions.

For this purpose, this study aims to investigate the social consequences of Varza Jang, a type of illegal leisure time carried out in Kuchesfahan District. The main question of the research is: what are the effects of Varza Jang and the social impact on the rural households involved in this activity?

## 2. Research Theoretical Literature

Leisure time as a part of human life is a complex phenomenon that is studied and discussed in philosophy, cultural anthropology, psychology and especially in sociology (Ospířil et al., 2022). Free time activity is essentially a product of 20th-century capitalism and as a concept, many thinkers try to interpret and define it (Njonge & Ronoh, 2022). Leisure is defined as the free time that one can use after doing necessary things in life (Leitner & Michael, 2004).

In this view, free time is separated from other aspects of life. Therefore, this time is frivolous and idle, which states a liberating factor of human nature. Thus, free time can become a goal, which causes internal satisfaction and requires patience, skill and effort. In this regard, we can refer to Dumazedier's and David Riesman's theories. According to Dumazedier, leisure time includes a set of activities a person does willingly. The purpose of this activity can be resting, variety, expanding knowledge (non-material goals), or participating in social activities other than a family, job, and other social requirements (Ardalan, 1975). Dumazedier divided leisure into five categories, including physical, artistic, intellectual, practical and social leisure (Arfaei Ainnuddin, 2009).

Riesman, in the book "The Lonely Crowd", explains that leisure is an opportunity for adapting human beings to the consumer and industrialized societies. But unfortunately, these societies degrade humans, and leisure responds to this degradation (Pour Soltani, and Ghaibizadeh, 2010: 80).

From another point of view, leisure is an activity. Advocates of this standpoint describe leisure as recreation time instead of free time. In other words, how to fill their free time is more important than having it (Beloševi & Feri'c, 2022). These can include many activities people use to entertain themselves or add to their knowledge and skills. Indeed, leisure as an activity is a relatively traditional perception of free time, which describes voluntary and satisfying as well as educational activities.

Similarly, some believe that leisure is an opportunity to engage in some serious or rather lively activities apart from the necessities of life (Torkildsen, 2012). Leisure is not a mental state, but it refers to a state of being. This is a psychological approach which considers the mental dimension of the phenomenon (Baranowski & Mroczkowska, 2021). Kross believes that leisure is a state of mind or a very desirable state of being resulting from participating in activities with intrinsic motivations. The followers of this point of view believe that freedom from compulsions and work should be highlighted more in the definition.

In this regard, the American sociologist Max Kaplan, in his book "Leisure in America", considers leisure as opposed to work. According to him, leisure is pleasant memories, freedom from social duties, psychological perception of freedom and cultural activity, and essentially a game. The content was not Kaplan's focus; instead, he underscores humans' relationships with these activities (Jalali Farahani, 2010). In economic studies, a new field of research called happiness combines economics with other fields such as psychology and sociology, quantitatively and theoretically studying happiness, positive and negative emotions, well-being, quality of life, and life satisfaction (Graham, 2001). Happiness theories have discussed the objective factors and improvement of material conditions on people's satisfaction. However, most of these studies concluded that objective conditions alone do not determine people's happiness levels. Proponents of this view believe that money has led to dismissing the personal and intimate aspects, hence intensifying anxieties and reducing satisfaction (Sadeghi et al., 2020).

In Klinger's view, leisure can only mean having free work and life requirements and may not be realized as recreational activities. However, from a holistic point of view, Eddington asserts that work and leisure are closely related and inseparable (Leitner & Michael, 2004).

The view of leisure as a way of life: In this view, free time seems to be a very idealistic way of life and can be possible to have only for a few people. This view is more similar to Aristotle's theory, which views leisure as a state of being free from the necessity of working (Jenkins & Pigram, 2004). Regardless of the different viewpoints regarding the nature of leisure, which stems from their

philosophy of life, they all agree on the benefits of spending leisure time on personal and social health. Thorstein Veblen is one of the pioneers in this field who has studied and explained leisure as an independent subject and theorized about the changing role and function of leisure in a new society. In his opinion, conspicuous and dramatic consumption and leisure are a way to represent dignity and social status so that people appear superior in the eyes of others. The lifestyle of the superior class is combined with leisure and consumption. According to Veblen, the entire social structure is filled with significant consumption and a lifestyle based on prosperity and leisure in modern societies (Raf'at Jah et al., 2010: 9). Adorno also says that in the past, leisure was for the elites. Hence, a person achieves a kind of independence and maturity.

In contrast, the means of mass communication, in the present time, remove maturity and have turned leisure into consuming cultural products. For instance, gambling is a modern leisure activity

known as illegal entertainment and leisure in most countries (Njonge & Ronoh, 2022). Therefore, leisure and how to spend it is one of the basic signs of lifestyle. In other words, people's lifestyle usually shows itself in spending free time.

In the modern era, Max Weber initiated the study of lifestyle and leisure and connected it with the concept of prestige (Khaja Nouri & Moghadasi, 2008). Finally, leisure time as a part of human life is a complex phenomenon studied and discussed in philosophy, cultural anthropology, psychology and especially sociology.

As societies pass from traditional to modern (post-industrial), people devote much time to work to have more money for their free time. The growth of wealth and the increase in purchasing power has a direct and significant relationship with one's free time. For this reason, new forms of leisure have been created since the end of the 20th century. In the following, Table 1 shows the summaries of the latest studies regarding the consequences and role of illegal leisure time, emphasizing gambling.

**Table 1. Summaries of background studies**

Author	Methodology	Purpose	Results
Maarifand et al. (2016)	Content analysis	Types of legal and illegal betting in Iran and gambling complications	Gambling is their occupation, and its consequences include family problems, addiction, suicide, debt stress, financial problems, legal issues, and tension in the family.
Parvin et al. (2015).	Thematic analysis method and Wolcott's method	The social disorganization and latent urban pathologies in the Harandi neighborhood	Gamblers are primarily men, and gambling space is organized at intersections, neighborhood alleys, and in houses. Gambling is related to all kinds of social damage such as Homelessness, addiction, debt, family disputes, etc. Therefore, the social disorganization of the neighborhood is the reason for this hidden urban problem.
Njonge & Ronoh (2022)	Quantitative-qualitative	Examining gambling activities, reasons for gambling, their attitude towards gambling, and consequences of financial and psychological well-being of young gamblers in Kenya	The increase in the suicide rate, the breakdown of relationships between friends and within families, and financial pressure
Zofcak & Sima (2022)	Quantitative-qualitative	Calculating the social costs of gambling: an economic approach	Reducing social costs and, at the same time, proving the effects of gambling addiction and its spread and the consequences of gambling that affect family and friends. The social costs of gambling should be analyzed with a multidisciplinary analysis according to different locations and related laws.
Badji et al (2021)	Qualitative	Examining the consequences of accessibility to gambling	People who live near gambling places are more likely to gamble, so less well-being, more financial problems, and more mental health problems are reported from these places.
Latvala et al. (2019)	Structural model	A conceptual model of the consequences of gambling and creating a conceptual model	In addition to economic effects, gambling has many social effects that are usually overlooked.

Author	Methodology	Purpose	Results
Ahaibwe et al. (2016)	Quantitative and qualitative	An overview of gambling and understanding the effects of gambling in Uganda	There is a significant relationship between age/gender and participation in gambling and between gambling and employment. Gambling causes loss of family welfare, violence, financial problems, crime, divorce, and poverty. The level of youth unemployment is associated mainly with the popularity of gambling, and the demand for gambling also declines with age and income factors.
Wu & Shyan Chen (2015)	Independent T-test	Reviewing the effects of casinos and gambling on residents, experiences from Macao and Singapore	Establishing casinos and gambling is one of the fastest ways to stimulate tourism in many countries (Japan and Vietnam); governments have made tourism development a political goal, and establishing gambling and casinos is crucial in their policy.
Tolchard (2015)	Qualitative	A broad understanding of gambling in rural communities	. Gambling in rural society creates negative social and economic issues, which include illegal activities, personal problems, family problems, crime, prostitution, debt, and mental health.
Downs & Wooierch (2010)	Qualitative	The relationship between gambling and debt, the attitude of gamblers towards money, the role of money as dependence on gambling, the effects of gambling debt on family and employment, and coping strategies of gambling individuals and families.	Gambling and its debts and failure to manage debt repayment include the possibility of returning to gambling, depression, family problems, debt, poverty, pathological disorders, divorce, unemployment, crime and stress in children.

Source: Authors, 2022

The research background review showed that international studies on gambling and betting suggest that they are illegal leisure activities. However, in Iran, detailed and comprehensive studies were conducted on the social effects of illegal leisure time, especially gambling, while rural areas were not the research focus. Therefore, this study aims to scrutinize the social effects of illegal leisure activity in rural households with an emphasis on Varza Jang gambling.

Each of these fields of study is focused on some specific aspects of leisure. Also, a group of people conventionally perceive leisure, and this leisure time has positive consequences expressed in the form of different views. Another group distinguishes it as informal relationships and mentions the consequences as social, individual and family abnormality. Based on the theories and the perception of leisure time, a conceptual model illustrates the components and indicators affecting the quality of social life (Figure 1).



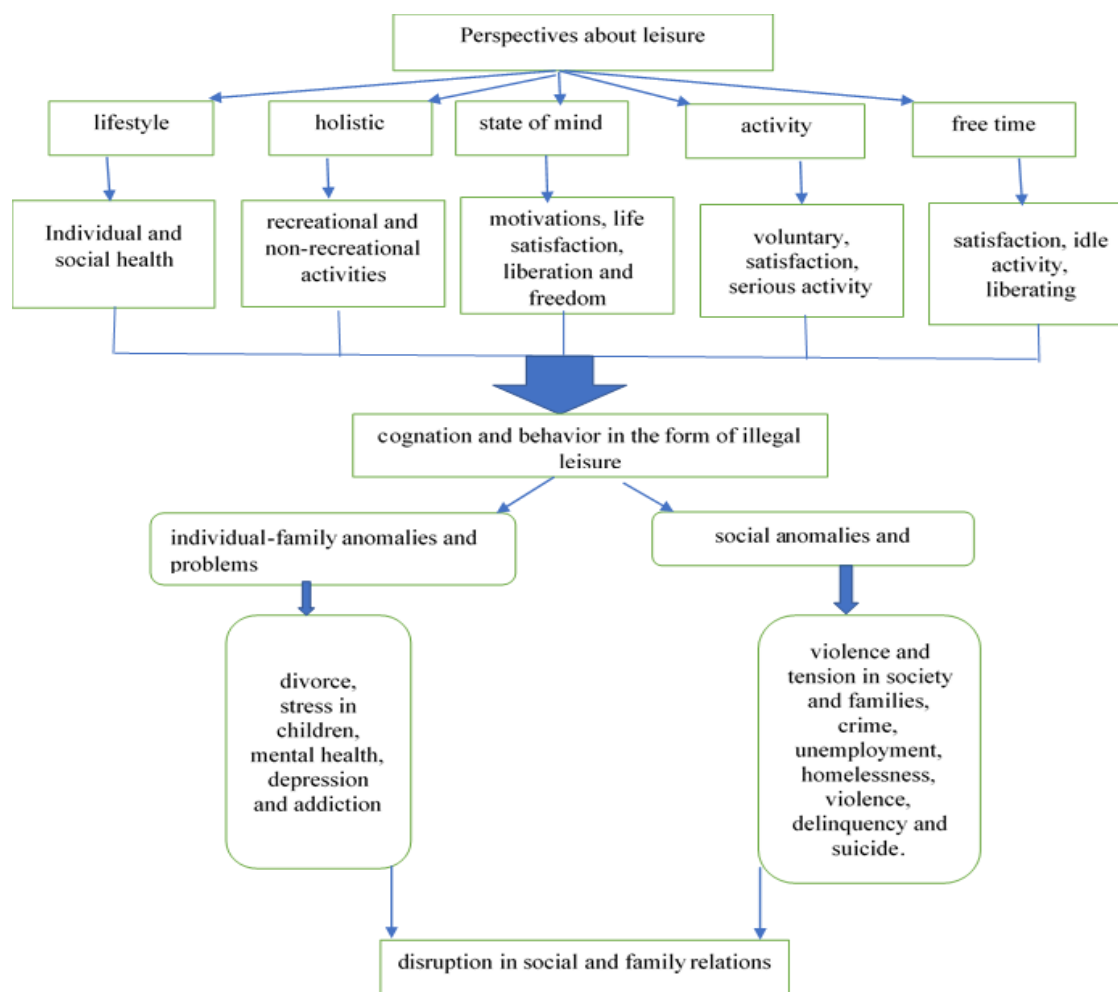


Figure 1. Conceptual model of the study

### 3. Research Methodology

#### 3.1 Geographical Scope of the Research

The studied area is the villages of Belesbeneh Rural District, Kucheshfahan District of Rasht County, located in Gilan Province. 15 km far from Rasht city, Kucheshfahan District is adjacent to Lasht-e Nesha District from the north, which is connected to the Caspian Sea. From the south, it is limited to Sangar and the Central District of Lahijan. The Central District of Astana Ashrafieh

and the Central District of Rasht are next to Kucheshfahan from East and West. Khomam District is also connected to Kucheshfahan through some roads. Thus, Kucheshfahan is located at an intersection.

This district has three rural districts: Kenarsar, Belesbeneh and Lulaman. According to the 2015 census, it has a population of 45,823 people, and 17,019 of them live in 24 villages of Belesbeneh Rural District.

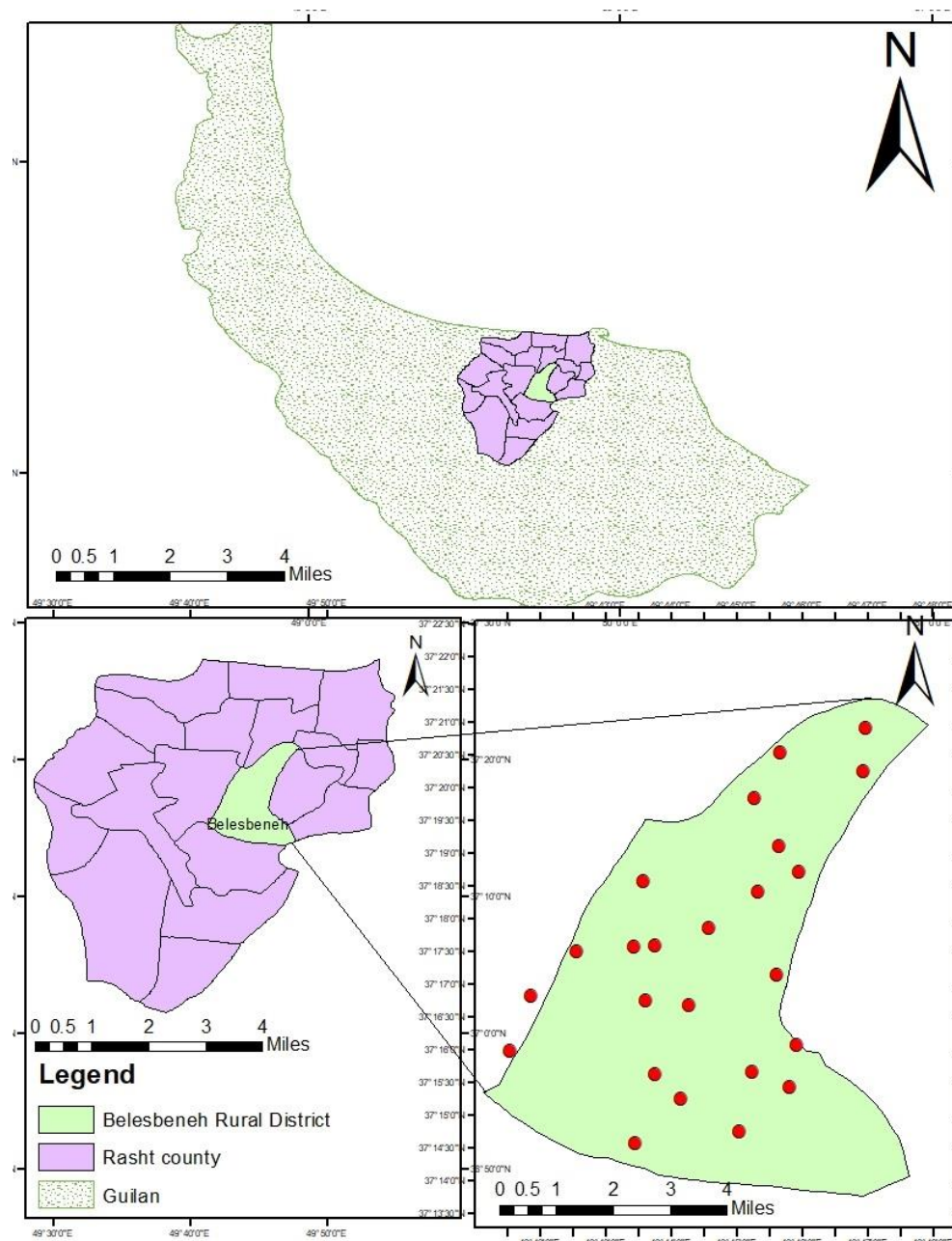


Figure 2. Location of the studied area, authors, 2022

### 3.2. Methodology

The current study is descriptive-analytical and applied in terms of aim. A theoretical framework was designed by the library research method. The questionnaire with a Likert scale, observation, and interviews with rural households were used for the field study. Observation and interview methods were complementary to quantitative data. The

study's statistical population was the rural households of Belesbeneh Rural District (N=5819). 362 rural households were selected using Cochran's formula. 180 people were involved in illegal leisure activities, and 182 were not involved. Table 2 shows the villages, household numbers and the number of samples according to the distribution ratio.

**Table 2. The names of the villages and the number of involved and non-involved households**

Village	Households (2016)	Households involved in illegal activities	Households not involved in illegal activities	Number of samples of involved households	The number of samples of non-involved household
Ahmad Sara	17	5	12	1	1
Imanabad	176	75	101	5	6
Bala Mahalleh Barka Deh	106	50	56	3	3
Barka Deh-e Paeen	455	300	155	20	9
Belesbeneh	492	200	292	13	17
Pashkeh	207	75	132	5	8
Jafarabad	369	50	319	3	19
Jir Sara	254	60	194	4	11
Hasanabad	91	45	46	3	3
Hashkova	315	200	115	13	7
Khesht Masjed	292	80	212	5	12
Sadeh	654	600	54	40	3
Siah Sufian	156	90	66	6	4
Shekar Sara	169	80	89	5	5
Ali Sara	53	35	18	2	1
Ali Nowdeh	130	80	50	5	3
Fashkechch	159	95	64	6	4
Kalmarz	93	40	53	3	3
Gurab Sar	252	95	157	6	9
Laleh Dasht	220	90	130	6	8
Mozhdah	520	150	370	10	22
Molla Sara	308	100	208	7	12
Now Estalakh	93	30	63	2	4
Navideh	238	100	138	7	8
Total	5819	2725	3094	180	182

Source: Field data collection of researchers 2022

Statistical methods were used to answer the research question and analyze the data. First, we used descriptive statistics to understand the respondents' demographic characteristics, revealing some points about the population. Meanwhile, we analyze the data by inferential statistics and one-sample t-tests to investigate the effects of gambling on social, individual and family anomalies in rural households of Belesbeneh Rural District.

Afterwards, each indicator was ranked using the Friedman rank test, and finally, path analysis was

used to investigate the direct, indirect and overall effects of the component.

The validity of the questionnaire was measured and approved by ten professors in the fields of social sciences, psychology and geography. A preliminary sample of 40 questionnaires was taken to measure reliability, and the reliability coefficient was calculated using Cronbach's alpha method. The obtained total alpha is 0.88, higher than 0.70, so the scale had acceptable reliability (Table 3).

**Table 3. The amount of alpha calculated for each of the indicators**

Components	Indicator	Metrics	Number of items	Mean	Cronbach's alpha
Social anomalies and problems	Crime	Conflicts - violent crimes - mugging	4	3.27	0.636
	Unemployment	Low income - lack of job opportunities - unemployment	3	3.75	0.589



Components	Indicator	Metrics	Number of items	Mean	Cronbach's alpha
	Homelessness	Debt - evacuation - loss of property	3	2.87	0.567
	Violence and tension in the family	Bad temper and anger - beating for the debt - being blamed	4	3.86	0.804
	Crime	Gambling and committing theft - Environment prone to gambling - Money circulation in gambling	4	3.08	0.206
	Suicide	Due to bankruptcies	2	1.39	0.938
Social anomalies and problems			20	3.04	0.823
Individual and family anomalies and problems	Separation and divorce	Feeling of shame - Ignoring the family - Conflict between married children - Divorce -	5	2.89	0.788
	Stress in children	Stress and anxiety - fear in children - parental indifference	3	91/3	647/0
	Mental health	Having peace - getting used to gambling - fear and anxiety	4	3.39	0.489
	Depression	Pressure - Gambling depression	2	3.48	0.351
	Addiction	Tendency to drugs and alcohol - alcohol use of gambling - Using drugs and alcohol because of being away from home	3	3.47	0.841
Individual and family anomalies and problems			17	3.43	0.801
Total			37	3.23	0.880

(Source: findings of the study, 2022)

#### 4. Research Findings

The most frequent age group of respondents in the non-involved households belongs to the 41-50-year group (36.9%), and the involved households belong to the 40-51 age group (37.4%). 87.4% of the non-involved respondents were male, while 100% of the respondent were male in the involved group. Regarding education, 40.1% of non-

involved households and 56.1% of involved households had elementary to middle school education. In addition, 33% of non-involved respondents and 43.3% of involved respondents were engaged in agricultural activities. Regarding marriage, 98.4% of non-involved respondents and 99.4% of involved respondents were married, and the rest were single (Table 4).

Table 4. characteristics of the respondents

Characteristics	Maximums	Non-involved households		Involved households	
		Frequency	Per cent	Frequency	Per cent
Age	Non-involved households 41-50 Involved households 31-40	66	36.9	67	37.4
Gender	Male	159	87.4	180	100
Marital status	Married	179	98.4	179	99.4
Education	Elementary to middle school	73	40.1	101	56.1
Job	Agriculture	60	33	78	43.3
Number of the family members	Four members	63	34.6	63	35

Source: Research findings, 2022

#### 4.1. Determining the effects of betting on the social indicators of rural households

The effects of gambling on the indicators of the two components of social and individual anomalies among rural households were analyzed with a one-sample T-test. The spectrum range is between 1 and 5 based on the Likert scale. This rate was evaluated to be higher than the cardinal utility (3) for all indicators of the two components of social and individual-family anomalies except for suicide, homelessness and divorce. This difference is significant for all indicators at the alpha level of 0.000.

The findings show that the children's stress indicator, with a score of 3.914, in the component of individual and family abnormalities, is at a higher level than other indicators of this component. This score shows the effects of gambling on children in the family. After the loss of property by the head of the household and serious problems due to losing bets, children usually feel fear, stress and anxiety.

Children can be in two categories. First, children facing this issue directly have fear, stress and anxiety due to the fear of losing and their animal getting injured in war. There are many of these cases in villages. The other group of children are indirectly involved with gambling and feel fear and anger of their parents after every loss when their fathers start complaining and bad tempering and make the children stressed before and after every bet.

These issues impose severe damage on both groups of children. Moreover, the violence indicator with a score of 3.863, in the component of social anomalies, is at a higher level than other indicators. This score implies that people involved in betting face the loss of property and cannot hide it from their families. They will be interrogated and held accountable by the family because hiding such losses is difficult for the people involved. Because spouses share all the properties and assets with their partners, losing property can inevitably lead to quarrels and conflicts. This situation will continuously increase grudges in the family.

**Table 5. Examining the effects of betting on the indicators of two components of social anomalies and family anomalies using a t-test**

Indicator	Mean	T-statistic	Degrees of freedom	Significance	Mean difference	Cardinal utility= 3 95% confidence interval	
						Low	High
Crime	3.268	6.389	359	0.000	0.268	0.18	0.35
Unemployment	3.275	18.622	359	0.000	0.753	0.68	0.83
Homelessness	2.875	-2.754	359	0.006	-0.124	-0.21	-0.03
Violence	3.863	21.091	359	0.000	0.863	0.78	0.94
Crime	3.086	3.351	359	0.001	0.086	0.03	0.13
Suicide	1.391	-39.499	359	0.000	-1.608	-1.68	-1.52
Divorce	2.894	-2.386	359	0.018	-0.105	-0.19	-0.01
Stress in children	3.914	20.715	359	0.000	0.914	0.82	-1.00
Mental health	3.397	10.705	359	0.000	0.397	0.32	0.47
Depression	3.480	10.121	359	0.000	0.480	0.38	0.57
Addiction	3.479	8.955	359	0.000	0.479	0.37	0.58

Source: findings of the study, 2022

#### 4.2. The rank of the gambling social effects among rural households

We used Friedman Test to explain the rank of the indicators. This test is a suitable tool for analyzing the difference in the mean of the indicators compared with each other.

As shown in [table \(6\)](#) show, the analysis of the mean difference of the indicators is completely significant because of the alpha level of 0.01. Among these, the highest mean ranks are (3.941)

and (3.863) for stress in children and violence and tension, respectively. Therefore, it can be confirmed that betting and gambling in forms of abnormalities in individuals, families and society cause stress in children and violence and social tensions. On the other hand, the lowest average rank among indicators of both components is for suicide, with a mean rank of 1.391.

There is no report of suicide among the groups involved and not involved in the gambling.

**Table 6. The significance of the mean difference in the effects of gambling in the studied villages**

Indicator	Number	Arithmetic mean	Mean rank	Rank
Crime	360	3.268	5.84	7
Unemployment	360	3.275	7.86	3
Homelessness	360	2.875	4.44	9
Violence	360	3.863	8.30	2
Crime	360	3.086	5.14	8
Suicide	360	1.391	1.60	11
Divorce	360	2.894	4.29	10
Stress in children	360	3.914	41/8	1
Mental health	360	3.397	6.30	6
Depression	360	3.480	6.86	5
Addiction	360	3.479	97/6	4
Chi-square	1418.400			
Degree of freedom	10			
Significance level	0.000			

Source: findings of the study, 2022

#### 4.3. Determining the most influential indicators of social and individual, and family anomalies

Path analysis was used to determine the most important indicators affecting the component of social anomalies. As table (7) shows, one unit of change in the standard deviation will change the indicators of crime, unemployment, homelessness,

violence, delinquency and suicide, respectively by (0.366), (0.100) 0), (0.070), 0.114), (0.138) and (0.216). Among the indicators of the social anomalies component, the highest effect was related to crime and the lowest effect was related to homelessness.

**Table 7. Coefficients of the intensity of relationships between the indicators of social anomalies**

Variables	Standard coefficient	Unstandardized coefficient		T	Significance level
	Beta	Standard error	B		
Intercept	-	0.159	2.585	16.286	0.000
Crime	0.366	0.033	0.211	6.305	0.000
Unemployment	0.100	0.034	0.060	1.788	0.075
Homelessness	0.070	0.030	0.038	1.270	0.205
Violence	0.114	0.034	0.06	1.981	0.048
Crime	0.138	0.051	-0.130	2.565	0.011
Suicide	0.216	0.029	0.129	-4.477	0.000

Source: findings of the study, 2022

For the component of individual and family, the highest overall effect is related to the crime indicator with a score of 0.366, while the homelessness indicator with a score of 0.070 has

the lowest overall effect. The overall effects indicate that betting and gambling were effective in all indicators of social anomalies, and the amount of crime indicator was higher than other indicators.

**Table 8. Measuring the amount of direct, indirect and overall effects of gambling on the indicators of the social anomaly component**

Variables	Direct effect	Indirect effect	Overall effect	Priority
Crime	0.366	0.132	0.498	1
Unemployment	0.100	-	0.100	5
Homelessness	0.070	-	0.070	6
Violence	0.114	-	0.114	4
Crime	0.138	0.023	0.161	3
Suicide	0.216	0.068	0.284	2

Source: findings of the study, 2022

The direct and indirect effects of indicators of social anomalies are shown in Figure (3).

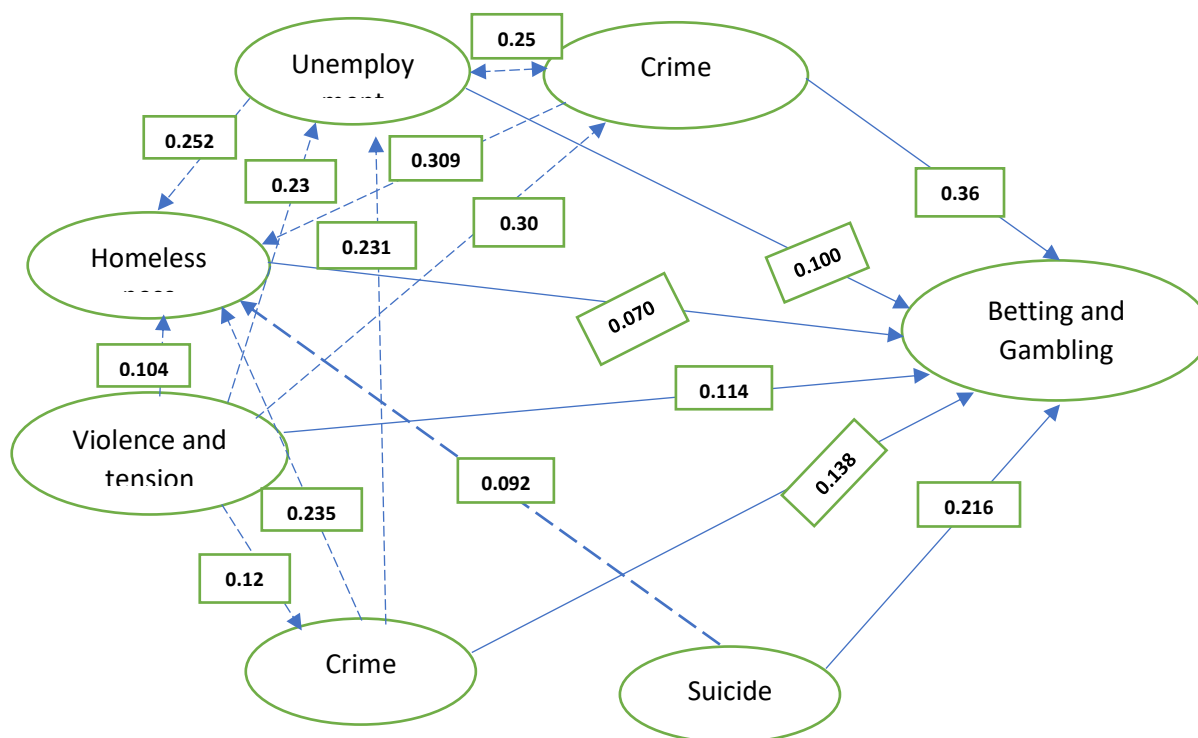


Figure 3. Path analysis model of factors and variables of gambling effects on social anomalies

As table (9) shows, one unit of change in the standard deviation will increase individual and family abnormalities, including divorce, the stress in children, mental health, depression and addiction to (0.122), (0.053), (0.240), (0.079) and

(0.087), respectively. Among the indicators of individual and family abnormalities, the highest effect was related to mental health, and the lowest was related to stress in children.

Table 9. Coefficients of the intensity of relationships between the indicators of social anomalies

Variables	Standard coefficient	Unstandardized coefficient		T	Significance level
	Beta	Standard error	B		
Intercept	-	0.153	2.237	14.620	0.000
Divorce	0.122	0.031	0.067	2.141	0.033
Stress in children	0.053	0.030	0.029	0.927	0.332
Mental health	0.240	0.036	0.156	4.356	0.000
Depression	0.079	0.028	0.040	1.446	0.149
Addiction	0.087	0.025	0.039	0.087	0.120

Source: findings of the study, 2022

For the component of individual and family anomalies, the highest overall effect is related to the mental health indicator, with a score of 0.265. The stress in children indicator with a score of 0.053 has the lowest overall effect in the studied

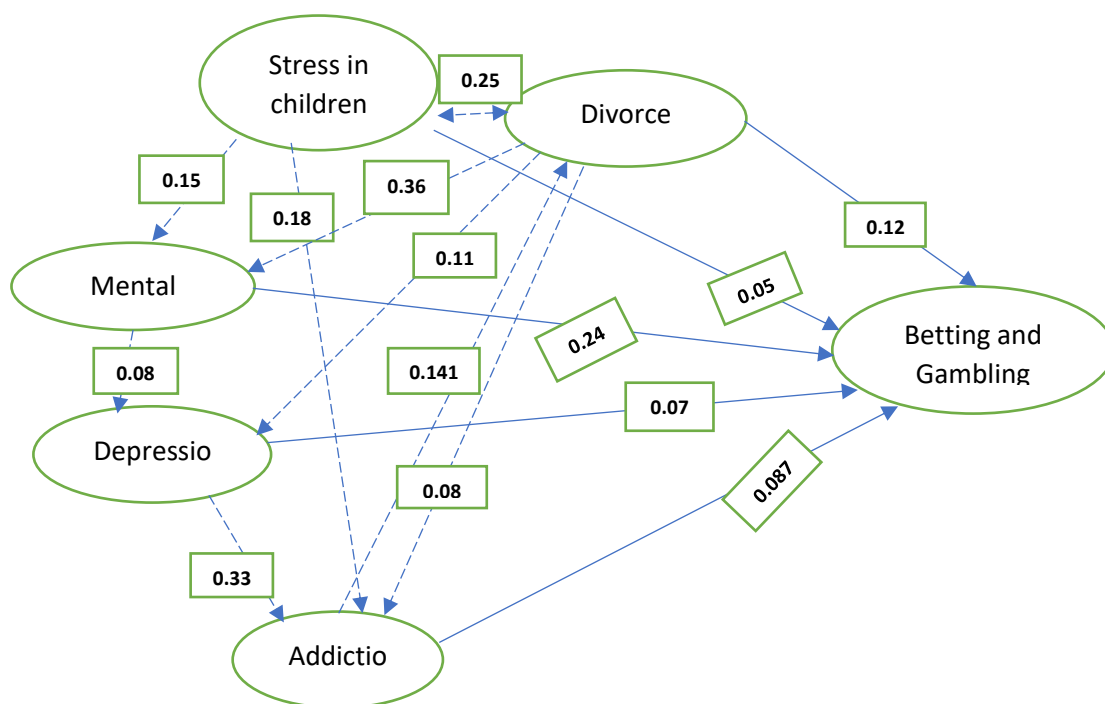
area. The overall effects indicate that betting and gambling were effective in all indicators of social anomalies, and the number of mental health indicators was higher than other indicators.

**Table 10. Measuring the amount of direct, indirect and overall effects of gambling on the indicators of the social anomaly component**

Variables	Direct impact	Indirect effect	Overall effect	Priority
Divorce	0.122	0.014	0.136	2
Stress in children	0.053	-	0.053	5
Mental health	0.240	0.025	0.265	1
Depression	0.079	-	-	4
Addiction	0.087	0.012	0.099	3

Source: findings of the study, 2022

The direct and indirect effects of indicators of family anomalies are shown in Figure (4).



**Figure 4. Path analysis model of factors and variables of gambling effects on individual and family abnormalities**

## 5. Discussion and Conclusion

This study investigated Varza Jan as a gambling practice, and its effects on social anomalies are evident in tables 4 and 5. Rural households in Belesbeneh are facing important social problems such as stress in children, violence and tension, crime, mental health, unemployment, addiction and depression. The stress indicator in the children ranked first in the studied villages, which indicates the adverse effects of the parents' gambling on youngsters. The children whose parents gamble experience the fear and anxiety of losing money and property and the anger of parents after losing in Varza Jang or any other type of gambling. However, some children, like their father and other

family members, are involved in illegal leisure activities like Varza Jang. They even train Varzas (bulls), and their goal and interest are to win in the battles. One of the causes of stress in children can be the battle stress children have when their favorite bull has a battle.

Family violence and tension are also related to losing money or assets, even after each loss. Consequently, anger and conflicts among family members can make life difficult for other family members. Another reason for the social effects at the village level is unemployment. Unemployment can play a role in this rural district in two ways.

On the one hand, some people involved in gambling activities spend the first six months of the



year (spring and summer) farming in the fields, and after this period, they usually spend their time in stores and coffee shops in the village. Some of these farmers are interested in betting and gambling and might lose their six-month profits from farming. Some of the farmers do not even possess any land, and they work on other people's land. Therefore, they lose the income which should have been spent on their family. Those who indulge in bets will not get jobs on land, and this causes people to become unemployed and lose their income, which can bring other adverse social effects to families. On the other hand, other groups of people have other sources of income besides agriculture.

They also spend their free time betting and enjoying. They are usually less engaged with family life and try to spend their pastimes. The lack of job opportunities in the village makes people interested in betting and gambling.

Some successful gamblers started with a small amount of money and made it overnight. As a result, they have a social status in society. This situation will inspire others to gamble, even though they will not always be winners. After each loss, the new gamblers should compensate for the losses, and after a few losses, they will bury themselves in debts and family problems. What can help them ignore their piled-up problem is psychedelic drugs and alcohol. It is evident that the social anomalies and individual and family

problems because of spending on illegal leisure are interconnected.

The findings of this research on the stress in children indicator are aligned with Downs & Wooierch (2010) and on violence and tension in the family with Wu & Shyan Chen (2015), Ahaibwe et al. (2016) and Maarifand et al. (2016). Also, the unemployment indicator is aligned with Ahaibwe et al. (2016) and Downs and Woolrych (2010). The addiction indicator is consistent with the studies of Williams (2011), Maarifand et al. (2016) and Parvin et al. (2016).

The Depression indicator confirms the findings of Drabach (2003), Parvin et al. (2016); the mental health indicator is consistent with Zhan's study (2009); the crime indicator is aligned with Drabach (2003) and Tolchard (2015). Other finding consistency is in the homelessness indicator with Parvin et al. (2016), Downs and Woolrych (2010), Williams (2011) and Ahaibwe et al. (2016), and finally, the suicide indicator with Maarifand et al. (2016).

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#### Authors' contributions

The authors equally contributed to the preparation of this article.

#### Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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## نقش اوقات فراغت غیرقانونی بر شرایط اجتماعی خانوارهای روستایی

(مطالعه موردی: شرط بندی و قمار ورزا جنگ در دهستان بلسبینه شهرستان رشت)

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### چکیده مبسوط

#### ۱. مقدمه

اوقات فراغت یکی از عوامل مهم تاثیرگذار بر رشد فردی، شکل دادن به هویت اجتماعی و تاثیرگذار بر ایجاد جهان های اجتماعی است که به دو شکل قانونی و غیر قانونی رخ می دهد؛ و می تواند به طور مستقیم و غیر مستقیم بر روی رفاه، آرامش و پاره های دیگر از شاخص های اجتماعی و اقتصادی خانوارهای روستایی تاثیر بسزایی داشته باشد. گذران اوقات فراغت غیر قانونی که در این پژوهش مورد نظر است با شرط بندی و قمار همراه است. اینگونه تفریحات ناسالم که با آسیب های اقتصادی و اجتماعی همراه است، دارای اثرات جبران ناپذیری مانند افسردگی، مشکلات خانوادگی، اعتیاد، بیکاری، فقر، طلاق، ورشکستگی، جنایت، خودکشی و غیره می باشد که تنش را در میان فرد قمارباز و اعضای خانواده اش ایجاد می کند. در جامعه روستایی استان گیلان نیز اوقات فراغت به هر دو شکل قانونی و غیرقانونی وجود دارد. از مشهورترین انواع گذران اوقات فراغت شایع روستایی در منطقه گیلان ورزا جنگ است و یکی از مناطق پر طرفدار برای این نوع از الگوی گذران اوقات فراغت بخش کوچصفهان از توابع شهرستان رشت می باشد. از آنجایی که انجام فعالیت های گذران اوقات فراغت غیر رسمی بر کیفیت زندگی خانوارهای روستایی دارد لذا توجه و بررسی این موضوع ضرورت دارد؛ برای همین منظور هدف این مطالعه بررسی اثرات اجتماعی، یکی از فعالیت های این دسته از گذران اوقات فراغت که در بخش کوچصفهان تحت عنوان ورزا جنگ انجام می گیرد است.

#### ۲. مبانی نظری تحقیق

اوقات فراغت به عنوان بخشی از زندگی انسان، پدیده ای پیچیده است که به طور گسترده در فلسفه، انسان شناسی فرهنگی، روان شناسی و به ویژه در جامعه شناسی مورد بررسی و بحث قرار گرفته است که تا اندازه زیادی محصول سرمایه داری سده بیستم و مفهومی است که از سوی اندیشمندان دارای تعبیر گوناگونی است و در ابتدا به معنای داشتن وقت آزاد به کار گرفته شده است. منظور از وقت آزاد در این دیدگاه، زمان تحت اختیاری است که پس از پرداختن به ضروریات زندگی، در اختیار فرد باقی می ماند. همه این رشته ها بر جنبه های خاصی از اوقات فراغت متمرکز شده اند و بسیاری از ویژگی های خاص آن در درون آن ها شناسایی شده است. گروهی از مردم اوقات فراغت را در قالب رویکرد های متعارف و شناخته شده و هنجار می شناسند و این اوقات فراغت دارای پیامدهای مثبتی که در قالب دیدگاه های مختلف بیان شده است. اما یک گروه اوقات فراغت را در قالب مناسبات غیررسمی ادراک می کنند و متناسب با ادراکی که دارند گذران اوقات فراغت را ترسیم می کنند که پیامدهای آن شامل ناهنجاری اجتماعی و فردی و خانوادگی می شود.

#### ۳. روش شناسی تحقیق

پژوهش حاضر از نظر هدف، کاربردی و روش انجام آن توصیفی-تحلیلی است. مطالعات نظریه ای با استفاده از روش کتابخانه ای، داده های میدانی نیز از طریق پرسشنامه با طیف لیکرت و مشاهده و مصاحبه با خانوارهای روستایی جمع آوری گردید.

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مربوط به جرم و جنایت و کمترین اثر مربوط به شاخص بی خانمانی بوده است. همچنین بررسی شاخص های تاثیرگذار بر مولفه ناهنجاری های فردی و خانوادگی نشان می دهد شاخص های طلاق، استرس فرزندان، سلامت روانی، افسردگی و اعتیاد به ترتیب (۰/۱۲۲)، (۰/۰۵۳)، (۰/۲۴۰)، (۰/۰۷۹) و (۰/۰۸۷)، موجب تاثیرات ناهنجاری های فردی و خانوادگی در منطقه مورد مطالعه شده است. در میان شاخص های مولفه ناهنجاری های فردی و خانوادگی بیشترین اثر مربوط به سلامت روانی و کمترین اثر مربوط به شاخص استرس فرزندان بوده است.

#### ۵. بحث و نتیجه گیری

شرط بندی و قمار در ورزا جنگ اثرات زیادی بر ناهنجاری های اجتماعی داشته است. خانوارهای روستایی در سطح دهستان بلسبنه با شرط بندی و مسائل اجتماعی مهمی چون استرس در فرزندان، خشونت و تنش، جرم جنایت، سلامت روانی، بیکاری، اعتیاد و افسردگی در خانواده ها که از شاخص های تاثیرگذار از نتایج بدست آمده در پرسشنامه ها حاصل شده است مواجه هستند. شاخص استرس در فرزندان با رتبه یک در نتایج آماری در روستاهای مورد مطالعه نشان دهنده تاثیرات منفی عمل شرط بندی سرپرست خانوار بر اعضاء خانواده بوده است. خشونت و تنش در خانواده ها نیز در سطح روستاهای مورد مطالعه با از دست دادن مال و اموال نقدی و غیر نقدی در ارتباط بوده و حتی بعد از هر باختی عصبانیت سرپرست و اعضاء خانواده می تواند زندگی را به کام دیگر اعضاء خانواده تلخ نماید. از دیگر دلایل اثرات اجتماعی در سطح دهستان بیکاری بوده است.

**کلیدواژه ها:** اوقات فراغت، قمار، شرط بندی، ورزا جنگ، دهستان بلسبنه.

#### تشکر و قدرانی

در پایان از تمامی روستاییان عزیز دهستان بلسبنه که با صبر و شکیبایی پاسخگوی سوالات نویسندگان بودند و همکاری بسیاری داشتند صمیمانه تشکر می کنم.

جامعه آماری، خانوارهای روستایی دهستان بلسبنه است (N=5819)، ۳۶۲ خانوار روستایی با استفاده از فرمول کوکران انتخاب شد. ابتدا با استفاده از آمار توصیفی، شناختی از ویژگی های جمعیت شناختی پاسخ دهندگان حاصل شد. در ادامه آمار استنباطی تحقیق مورد بررسی قرار گرفته است و به برای تجزیه و تحلیل این اطلاعات ابتدا از آزمون های t تک نمونه ای به بررسی میانگین و اثرات ناهنجاری های اجتماعی و ناهنجاری های فردی و خانوادگی شرط بندی و قمار بر خانوارهای روستایی دهستان بلسبنه پرداخته شد. در مرحله بعد با استفاده از آزمون رتبه ای فریدمن به رتبه بندی هریک از شاخص ها پرداخته شد و در نهایت با استفاده از تحلیل مسیر به بررسی اثرات مستقیم، غیرمستقیم و کلی هریک از شاخص های دو مولفه بر این دو متغیر پرداخته شد.

#### ۴. یافته های تحقیق

جهت بررسی اثرات قمار بر شاخص های دو مولفه ناهنجاری های اجتماعی و فردی از آزمون t تک نمونه ای استفاده شد. یافته های این آزمون نشان می دهد، شاخص استرس فرزندان با میانگین (۳/۹۱۴)، از مولفه ناهنجاری های فردی و خانوادگی نسبت به سایر شاخص های این مولفه در سطح بالاتری قرار دارد؛ که این نشان دهنده تاثیرات شرط بندی بر فرزندان در خانواده است. برای بیان نقش و جایگاه هر یک از شاخص های مورد نظر از آزمون رتبه ای فریدمن بهره گرفته شد. نتایج این آزمون نشان داد بیشترین میانگین رتبه ای به ترتیب (۳/۹۴۱) و (۳/۸۶۳) به شاخص های استرس فرزندان و خشونت و تنش اختصاص یافته است. برای تعیین مهمترین شاخص های تاثیرگذار بر مولفه ناهنجاری های اجتماعی از تحلیل مسیر استفاده شده است. نتایج این آزمون با توجه به ضریب Beta نشان می دهد که یک واحد تغییر در انحراف معیار در شاخص های جرم و جنایت، بیکاری، بی خانمانی، خشونت، بزهکاری و خودکشی به ترتیب (۰/۳۶۶)، (۰/۱۰۰)، (۰/۰۷۰)، (۰/۱۱۴)، (۰/۱۳۸) و (۰/۲۱۶)، موجب تاثیرات ناهنجاری های اجتماعی در منطقه مورد مطالعه شده است. در میان شاخص های مولفه ناهنجاری های اجتماعی بیشترین اثر

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